

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs 30, 32, 36, 41, and 48, with the following amended paragraphs:

[0030] Figure 1 is a perspective view of the prior art U-shaped ladder support assembly 2. The ladder support assembly 2 has a rigid U-shaped frame 7 comprising a left vertical frame portion 27, a right vertical frame portion 28, and lower cross member portion 29. The ladder support assembly 2 may be attached to the modular assembly station with mounting hardware 26, such as bolts. The ladder support assembly 2 has two pair of opposing left and right slat holders 10, 12, 14, 16. Each slat holder is part of an assembly further comprising a cover plate 11, 13, 15, 17, a spring 18, a pin 20, bushings 22, and bolts ~~[[22]]~~24.

[0032] Figure 3 is front perspective of a prior art U-shaped ladder station support assembly 2 having three slats already inserted into ladder-string spaces 5 (of ladder-string 4) and stacked, and another slat 8 being lifted into the stack 6 by an elongated channel 144. Figure 4 is front perspective of the upper opposing left and right slat holders 10, 14 of the prior art U-shaped ladder station support assembly 2, which has three slats already inserted into ladder-string spaces 5 and stacked, and another slat 8 being lifted into the stack 6 by an elongated channel 144. Figure 5 is the same view as Figure 4, except the elongated channel 144 with a slat 8 is being lifted through the upper opposing left and right slat holders 10, 14. Figure 6 is the same as Figures 4 and 5, except the slat 8 has been lifted through the upper opposing left and right slat holders 10, 14, the elongated channel 144 has been extracted, and the slat 8 is resting on the upper opposing left and right slat holders 10, 14 and is now part of the stack 6.

[0036] The slat holders 52 may be made from a variety of materials, such as plastic (i.e. polyethylene, polypropylene, TEFLON® (i.e., PTFE)) or metal (i.e. aluminum) to name just a few examples. This material list is merely exemplary and is not intended to be limiting. Preferably, the material utilized for manufacturing the slat holders 52 will exhibit sufficient rigidity and durability to withstand thousands of slat lifting cycles. However, preferably, the slat holder 52 is made from a material which reduces friction when the elongated channel 144 (see Figures 9-12) is brought into contact with the opposing slat holders 52.

[0041] The structure of the left and right lower holder assembly 48 mounting bodies 98, 100 are now herein described below. The left and right lower holder assembly mounting bodies 98, 100 are generally referred to as the lower mounting bodies 98, 100. For descriptive purposes, the lower body 98, 100 has a second holder adapting side 106, a second back side 108, a second upper side 110, a second lower side 112, a second holder deployment side 114, and a second set screw receiving side ~~[[116]]~~117 which opposes the second holder deployment side 114.

Moreover, the shape of the lower mounting body 98, 100 may conform to other shapes and forms that will perform the same function.

[0048] The slat holder 52 is rotatably attached by the bolt 78 such that the slat holder 52 may freely move from its resting position (see Figures 9, 10, 12) to the pushed up position (see Figure 11). It is noteworthy to mention that the present invention utilizes no springs or resilient-biased elements to assist in actuating the slat holder 52 which reduces the number of parts of which are subject to wear and tear. Thus, the slat holder 52 in the present invention is designed such that it may be easily pushed upward with minimal resistance by the elongated channel 144 that is lifting the slat 8. Furthermore, the slat holder 52 falls back to the resting position (see Figures 9, 10, 12) without utilizing a spring such as in the prior art device. The feature is accomplished by providing a slat holder 52 which has a center of gravity offset from the axis of which it rotates about, the axis of which is defined by the centerpoints of holder mounting hole 94 and bolt ~~[[78]]~~96. As a result, once the elongated channel 144 with the slat 8 passes through the pair of opposing slat holders 52, the slat holders 52 swing downward until the resting side 142 of the slat holder 52 contacts the lower perimeter wall 88, 128 (see Figures 9, 10, 12).